From: Dave La Bounty
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/28/02 10:59pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern:

I am very much against the proposed Microsoft Antitrust Settlement ... it
doesn't go far enough to level the playing field against Microsoft or in
punishing Microsoft.   In it's present form, it appears that the DOJ
proposed settlement (once again) lets Microsoft off the hook, and lets them
continue their rampant / unabaited, unethical, predatory / monopolistic
practices ... it's ALL in the details and crafting of the words ... by
highly paid Microsoft lawyers ... once again, there is no 'meat' to it.
'Nothing' surprises me anymore ... but America and the world deserves better.

There IS an alternative ... ALL you have to do is read the incisive,
brilliantly presented descriptions of the problems ... and solutions at the
following web sites ... to realize how woefully inadequate the DOJ
settlement proposals truely are.

http://www.kegel.com/remedy/letter.html,
http://www.kegel.com/remedy/remedy2.html
http://www.codeweavers.com/~jwhite/tunney.html

The solutions proposed at these sites have some 'meat' to them, and should
just be a starting point of 'minimum necessary requirements'. These
proposed solutions, would finally, at least, force Microsoft to be more
forthright and honest.   Hire these guys as consultants!!!

IF there is 'any justice', the DOJ verdict and settlement ought to 'punish'
Microsoft 'severely', with more than just a weak slap on the wrist ...
Microsoft should not continue to be 'rewarded' by the Justice Dept. for
their continued 'best business practices' ... business practices at their
worst.

I have been supporting Computer hardware / software for 40 years from
mainframes to PCs, including Microsoft products. There is 'no room' in a
democratic society ... for software code (and a company) that wants to
'imbed' itself 'everywhere' ... to the 'exclusion' of ALL others.   This
fact is even intuitively obvious to the most casual observer ... and also
ought to be obvious to a 'US Justice Dept' as well.

There is no dispute that Microsoft has stifled innovation, creativity and
competition ... and in the process 'sucked' the life out of an Entire
industry / culture. For years, Microsoft has 'rushed to market' buggy /
inept, bloated software code / APIs, applications ... Operating systems
(OS) ... in order to circumvent previous, WEAK Justice Dept settlements.

Just look at the security flaws in their 'latest & greatest' XP OS ...
rushed to market to 'procreate' and 'imbed' itself ... before it works ...
and before the 'law' can catch up with it ... yet one more time. In
Windows 9X, Internet Explorer (IE) was blatently imbedded into the Windows
OS, with requirements that IE be the 'default' browser in order for OTHER
Microsoft) applications (such as Outlook) to work properly ... to the
exclusion of other applications, including Netscape.   Microsoft 'is' the
ultimate blood-sucking virus. It's time to get out the RAID ... and a BIG
flyswatter ... or gavel!!!

Surprise me ... do something right ... for a change,

Dave La Bounty, San Jose, Ca, Computer Engineer / Technologist (40 years)